

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Resident Burned in Cooking Fire

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Charleston, SC (July 13th, 2015): On July 12th, 2015 at 4:49 PM, units with the Charleston and Saint Andrews Fire Departments, Charleston Police, and Charleston County EMS were dispatched for a possible structure fire on Humphrey Court. First responders arrived and began to provide treatment for one patient with burn injuries and investigate the reported structure fire. The patient was transported to a hospital for treatment.

The resident began heating cooking oil and left the kitchen. When she returned to the kitchen she discovered the pan on fire and tried to remove it from the structure. Grease from the pan splashed onto the resident causing burns to her right arm and right leg of her body. A neighbor was able to extinguish the fire with a fire extinguisher prior to the fire departments arrival. Fire damage to the structure was minimal.

The Charleston Fire Department would like to remind citizens of the following:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking food. Never leave cooking food unattended. If you are cooking with oil, heat the oil slowly to the temperature you need for frying. Cooking fires are the number one cause of structure fires in the United States.
- Never attempt to move a burning pan or carry it out of the house. If you can do so safely, slide a properly fitted lid onto the pan to smother the flames. Turn the control knob to the "off" position.
- Never throw water on oil or grease fires. Water will react violently with a grease fire and will spread the burning grease.
- Attempt to use a fire extinguisher only if it is safe to do so. Baking soda can provide a safe alternative for a small fire.
- If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire, just get out! Get everyone out, close the door behind you, and call 9-1-1.
- Always maintain working smoke alarms in your home – this will improve safety of occupants in a structure by alerting them to a possible fire.

For additional safety tips on cooking, please visit our website at <http://www.charleston-sc.gov/cooking-safety>. You may also contact Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer at kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov or by phone at (843) 958-6401.

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